EXCISE

2357

P790066-1792

E B6

May 8, 1979

Dear Senator Heflin:

I refer to your inquiry of April 11 concerning [redacted] request for assistance in identifying the body of [redacted] Jerry Balisok, whom she believes died in Jonestown, Guyana. B6

As [redacted] stated in her letter, she has been in contact with several members of my staff as well as personnel at the Dover Air Force Base Mortuary where the bodies were stored. She has been advised of the methods being used to identify the remaining bodies and has submitted for that purpose the necessary medical records of her son. She has subsequently been informed many times that the records she submitted do not match any of those made from the remaining unidentified bodies. She has also been informed that neither Guyanese immigration records nor United States passport records give any indication that her son was in Guyana at the time of the tragedy. Mrs. Balisok still insists, however, that her son is a Jonestown victim. She bases her belief mainly on a photograph in Life Magazine showing an aerial view of the Jonestown Settlement aftermath which she contends shows clearly the body of her son. B6

[redacted] is dissatisfied with the methods being used to identify the bodies, i.e., fingerprints, footprints, skull and dental x-rays. She maintains that a pelvic x-ray would disclose [redacted] steel pins that were placed in her son's hip during an operation. Mrs. Balisok will not be satisfied until all the bodies have been x-rayed. The United States Government cannot justify such an action, as you know, especially with no other indication whatsoever that Jerry Balisok was ever in Guyana. B6

The Honorable
Howell Heflin,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 2/27/84
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

The Department truly sympathizes with [redacted] B6
and has attempted to help her in every way possible. We have returned all her calls and have provided, at her request, an enlargement of the Life photograph. There is simply nothing further that can be done at this time.

I regret my reply could not be more favorable.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

CA/OCS/CCS/ARA/DMeyers:dg 4/27/79 Clearances
x23675 #56-0362 EUR-Mr. Dobrenchuk
OCS-Mr. Gise
H-Mr. Krizek